

SERMON ON LUKE 12:49-53 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentacost

The Gospel according to St. Luke the 12th. Chapter. (*Let Sing*)
(*Read Gospel*). The word of the lord. Please be seated.

Amanda graciously emailed the Readings for today's sermon right away

She knows I could not wait to get started. It takes time to sift through it, absorb it and digest the word in preparation. Well, The printer could not move fast enough, The ink was barely dry when I pulled the paper out of the tray and there it was **Luke Chapter 12 verse 49_53.**

Jesus said to the disciples, I came to cast fire on the earth and would that it were already kindled." And other words like:

Distress, and division, against, hypocrites, scorching heat and divided, Mother against Daughter.

Those words seemed to leap off the page.

THIS IS SOME SERIOUS SUBJECT MATTER

Maybe Amanda sent me the wrong reading.

. I better check the email again,

or maybe there's something wrong with the printer.

Maybe the Quest bible OR THE MESSAGE will provide a more **palatable solution.**

NOT A CHANCE.

I began to wonder where is Paster Kramer, Paster David and how come Keith is not available today?

In fact maybe pastors all over the world were scheduling vacations, sabbaticals, mission trips and even surgeries on **this thirteenth day after Pentacost.**

A difficult message and a challenging sermon during (lets be honest), some challenging times,

Well they were Challenging times when Jesus first preached this message too. He was about 2 weeks or so away from his crucifixion, so his message is increasing in urgency and intensity. He knows **his own most difficult time to endure the cross is nearing.** We would rather talk about the resurrection, or his birth the meaning of Christmas. **We love Christmas. Right,**

It's a time **of family** and for the **Provitera's**, a time for lots of great Italian food.

One year my Aunt was hosting and everyone was there, 2nd even third cousins. Every leaf was in the dining room table to fit so many of us, She's a good cook and we are pretty good eaters and extremely hungry ones that day. Well of course, her **recipes** had to be scaled up and ingredients multiplied to feed **us hungry masses.** It takes time to get everybody seated. **She called us to the table "Hurry, Lets eat before it gets cold."** When we were, finally ready to eat, we all seemed to take our first bite at the **exact same time.** Some of us started with a meatball, others a sauzeech, or the Fish and the spaghetti benders went for the pasta. In unison,

a well **timed look of distress with a guttural YUUK** filled that upper room.

I'm thinking **Revelation 3:16 "So because you are lukewarm... neither hot nor cold....I will spit you out of my mouth".** The food was getting warm, but that wasn't all.

Her daughter Tracy said “MOM, did you use those rotten tomatoes for the sauce. I separated them and told you not to mix them together.”

“I know, I only used a few.”

That sauce was so bitter it was unbearable. And ,remember the meatballs , the pasta, the fish, **everything** had that gravy on it

The sauce that was mixed with rotten tomatoes was ruined.

Cousin Tracy had divided the tomatoes, separated the bad ones from the Good and her mother added them back in. It DESTROYED almost every dish we had that Christmas.

Truly a house divided, There we were Mother against daughter daughter against mother and Provitera’s against rotten tomatoes. Tracys husband filled up like a blowfish that was ready to burst and his own stomach turned against him later.

By the way, (Everything the following year was prepared in a simple White wine reduction sauce.)

Remember what Jesus said in Mark Chapter 2 verse 22. “And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and **BOTH the wine and the wineskins will be RUINED. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.**”

We need to be able to tell the difference between new and Old wineskins, Fresh and Rotten tomatoes, and we must be able to See and follow the warning signs. We know what rotten looks like before we make the gravy. **The warning signs are clear.**

Jesus alerts us to this. He said to the crowds. In today’s Gospel reading verse 54-56.

“When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, A Shower is coming. And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, There will be scorching heat, and it happens, You hypocrites, You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how **to interpret the present time?**”

AT THIS PRESENT TIME IN OUR HISTORY

Racial tensions dominate our current events and our politics and our media are dividing us by party and dividing us by ethnicity and dividing us by gender and dividing us by ideology and skin color and income and anything else that leads us away from communion and unity.

We may think. Don’t we need a message that unites us today. Maybe A nice Christmas story. Well,

we stand firmly on Gods word, Even when we would rather hear another message.

We’re here at Christ Hamilton on this THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTACOST.

as believers knowing that When EVER Jesus speaks it is his fathers will and Jesus, his son with whom he is well pleased, reminds us in John chapter 12: 49-50. “**For I did not speak on my own but the father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say and how to say it. And I know that His command leads to eternal life. So I speak EXACTLY what the Father has told Me to say.**”

The words of Jesus even in todays Gospel are the perfect words of the Father, **SO WE ARE MEANT TO FEED ON HIS WORD.**

TODAYS MESSAGE. Is not candy. This is **MEAT AND POTATOES** meant for our nourishment.

We abide in his word.

Although technology and current events may seem to change.

Human nature does not. And Gods word remains.

So we may **think** we need a message on unity, but we must be careful not to sugar coat what we are meant to hear.

SO TODAY we find ourselves in the middle of Luke's Gospel with an urgent lesson from Jesus who tells us in **verse 51**.

“Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division”

There is that word again. DIVISION. We don't talk about such words in a positive light very much now. We hear the Lords name taken in vain. Obsenity and profanity in the culture is common place, while words like DIVISION, and DISCRIMINATION and JUDGEMENT have become the bad words that dare not be mentioned.

IN 1984 profanity and obscenity were accelerating.

Larry Flynt was in A legal battle after years of distasteful ads and images that were the **RECIPE for his magazine** that was said to have made playboy look tame. He hired a high powered attorney who later stated that his goal was very clear.

For that judge and Jury and this world, My goal he said “is to **erase distinctions** Did you hear that. **ERASE THE DISTINCTION**.

If there is an attempt to erase it, than he knows it exists in the first place. There is a distinction, there is seperation and we can divide. In fact we must discern, we must discriminate between

OBSENITY.....OR ART

Wrong or right

Evilor good.

Rotten..... or Pure.

What is false.....or what is True.

the Word of the Lord.....or visions of our own minds

There is division, separation, discernment and **discrimination and yes Gods Judgement**.

At the time Jesus was preaching, The Fire in today's Gospel, was almost always used in this context as representing judgement. And the Jews at the time believed that judgment was for other nations. Judgement yes, but not for us.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must **ALL STAND BEFORE CHRIST TO BE JUDGED**. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good **OR** evil we have done in this **earthly body**.

Blurring lines, diluting, mixing in what is not pure and **Erasing Distinctions** are exactly what we are called **not to do**. Even when it hits close to home. **Even among family**. In fact **One of the reasons why the Romans hated the message of Christianity and the coming of Jesus was because it tore families in two**. Time and Time again men had to choose whether they loved their families better than Christ. **Love of Christ was and still is a choice**.

Loyalties of this earth..... or Loyalty to Christ.

As pertinent and as difficult of a message as this is for us today, it was not any different during The time that Jesus first delivered it. But his **PERFECT RECIPE** remains with us. We too have Gods word.

In all times of distress God provides better for us. Hebrews 12: 1 “let us also **lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely** and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter** of our faith, **WHO FOR THE JOY** that was set before him endured the cross.”

With indurance and with discernment we must continue to separate out, **GOD GIVES US THE RECIPE.** That leads to Him. **THE CHOICES ARE CLEAR.**

There is no diluting the message, or **Erasing distinctions.**

Not a sprinkle of this **and** just a little bit of what we feel like adding.

it is **not Luke Warm** either, **it is hot or cold EITHER**

-Look at the ways of the world or..... look at Jesus

-The Love of Christ or..... the love of something else

-The wide gate or..... the narrow gate

-Fear or.....Faith

-Death orLife everlasting.

Right now We at Christ Hamilton. Receive this message and Have the wisdom to know these things. **2nd timothy chapt 3 verse 15.** “**You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.**

TASTE AND SEE

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

What a Beautiful Recipe Book for life everlasting The gift of salvation.

Laid out before us. **A banquet feast that has no end.**

Let us lay aside **YES DIVIDE AND SEPARATE OUT** every other ingredient, that does not belong. **Separate out every weight and sin THAT JUNK FOOD** that clings.

Gods **HEALTHY** Recipe for us Is written in his word **LET US READ HIS WORD, HIS RECIPE BOOK.** It offers the perfect ingredients, **NO rotten fruit.**

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT:

LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS , GENTLENESS, SELF CONTROLL, there’s

WISDOM, TRUTH, SALVATION, & LIFE EVER LASTING.

And some salt and light. We Know who prepares a Feast for us.

In Faith,

Let us **CHOOSE** The founder and perfecter. Jesus Christ our lord and savoir. Amen.

